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Claims

What is claimed is:

51101. An isolated peptide of *Lol p V* wherein said peptide comprises at least one T cell epitope of *Lol p V*, said peptide having at least 7, but no more than 100, amino acid residues comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of amino acid sequences as shown in Fig. 2 of peptides LPIX-1 (SEQ ID NO:3), LPIX-1.1 (SEQ ID NO:3), LPIX-2 (SEQ ID NO:4), LPIX-2.1 (SEQ ID NO: 4), LPIX-3 (SEQ ID NO:5), LPIX-4 (SEQ ID NO:6) LPIX-5 (SEQ ID NO:7), LPIX-6 (SEQ ID NO:8), LPIX-7 (SEQ ID NO:9), LPIX-8 (SEQ ID NO:10), LPIX-9 (SEQ ID NO:11), LPIX-10 (SEQ ID NO:12), LPIX-11 (SEQ ID NO:13), LPIX-12 (SEQ ID NO:14), LPIX-13 (SEQ ID NO:15), LPIX-14 (SEQ ID NO:16), LPIX-15 (SEQ ID NO:17), LPIX-16 (SEQ ID NO:18), LPIX-17 (SEQ ID NO:19), LPIX-18 (SEQ ID NO:20), LPIX-19 (SEQ ID NO:21), LPIX-20 (SEQ ID NO:22), LPIX-21 (SEQ ID NO:23), LPIX-22 (SEQ ID NO:24), LPIX-23 (SEQ ID NO:25), LPIX-24 (SEQ ID NO:26), LPIX-26 (SEQ ID NO:28), and LPIX-27 (SEQ ID NO:29).
2. An isolated peptide of claim 1, said peptide having at least 7, but no more than 10, amino acid residues comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of the amino acid sequences as shown in Fig. 2 of peptides LPIX-4 (SEQ ID NO:6), LPIX-5 (SEQ ID NO:7), LPIX-6 (SEQ ID NO:8), LPIX-8 (SEQ ID NO:10), LPIX-9 (SEQ ID NO:11), LPIX-11 (SEQ ID NO:13), LPIX-12 (SEQ ID NO:14), LPIX-16 (SEQ ID NO:18), LPIX-17 (SEQ ID NO:19), LPIX-20 (SEQ ID NO:22), LPIX-23 (SEQ ID NO:25), and LPIX-26 (SEQ ID NO:28).
3. A peptide comprising a portion of an isolated peptide of claim 1 which has a T cell stimulation index of at least 2.0.
4. A peptide comprising a portion of an isolated peptide of claim 1 which has a T cell stimulation index approximately equivalent to or greater than the T cell stimulation index of said isolated peptide from which it is derived.
5. An isolated peptide of claim 1 which, when administered to an individual sensitive to *Lol p V* allergen, induces T cells to become nonresponsive or modifies the lymphokine secretion profile of T cells in the individual.

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6. An isolated peptide of claim 2 which binds immunoglobulin E to a substantially lesser extent than native *Lol p V* binds immunoglobulin E.

7. An isolated nucleic acid sequence having a sequence encoding a peptide of claim 1.

8. A functional equivalent of a nucleic acid sequence encoding a peptide of claim 1.

9. An isolated peptide which is immunologically cross-reactive with T cells reactive with a peptide of claim 2.

10. An isolated peptide of *Lol p V* wherein said peptide has a T cell stimulation index of at least about 3.5.

11. An isolated peptide of claim 10 wherein said T cell stimulation index is at least about 5.

12. A peptide of claim 1 modified to improve solubility.

13. A peptide of claim 2 modified to improve solubility.

14. A modified peptide of claim 13 which does not bind immunoglobulin E specific for *Lol p V* in a substantial percentage of individuals sensitive to *Lol p V*, or if binding of the peptide to said immunoglobulin E occurs, such binding does not result in release of mediators from mast cells or basophils in a substantial percentage of individuals sensitive to *Lol p V*.

15. A modified peptide of claim 12 which modifies, in an individual sensitive to *Lol p V* to whom it is administered, the allergic response of the individual to a *Lol p V* allergen.

16. A monoclonal antibody specifically reactive with a peptide of claim 1.

17. An isolated peptide produced in a host cell transformed with the nucleic acid of claim 7.

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18. An isolated peptide produced in a host cell transformed with the nucleic acid of claim 8.

19. An expression vector comprising a nucleic acid sequence coding for a peptide of claim 1.

20. An expression vector comprising the functional equivalent of a nucleic acid sequence coding for a peptide of claim 1.

21. A composition comprising at least one isolated peptide of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

22. A composition of claim 21 comprising a combination of peptides selected from the group of combinations consisting of:

LPIX-4 (SEQ ID NO:6), LPIX-5 (SEQ ID NO:7), LPIX-6 (SEQ ID NO:8), LPIX-16 (SEQ ID NO:18), LPIX-17 (SEQ ID NO:19), and LPIX-20 (SEQ ID NO:22);

LPIX-4 (SEQ ID NO:6), LPIX-5 (SEQ ID NO:7), LPIX-6 (SEQ ID NO:8), LPIX-12 (SEQ ID NO:14), LPIX-16 (SEQ ID NO:18), LPIX-17 (SEQ ID NO:19), and LPIX-20 (SEQ ID NO:22);

LPIX-4 (SEQ ID NO:6), LPIX-5 (SEQ ID NO:7), LPIX-6 (SEQ ID NO:8), LPIX-17 (SEQ ID NO:19), and LPIX-20 (SEQ ID NO:22);

LPIX-4 (SEQ ID NO:6), LPIX-5 (SEQ ID NO:7), LPIX-6 (SEQ ID NO:8), and LPIX-20 (SEQ ID NO:22);

LPIX-4 (SEQ ID NO:6), LPIX-5 (SEQ ID NO:7), LPIX-6 (SEQ ID NO:8), LPIX-11 (SEQ ID NO: 13), LPIX-12 (SEQ ID NO:14), LPIX-16 (SEQ ID NO:18), LPIX-17 (SEQ ID NO:19), and

LPIX-20 (SEQ ID NO:22);

LPIX-4 (SEQ ID NO:6), LPIX-5 (SEQ ID NO:7), LPIX-6 (SEQ ID NO:8), LPIX-8 (SEQ ID NO: 10), LPIX-9 (SEQ ID NO: 11), LPIX-11 (SEQ ID NO: 13), LPIX-12 (SEQ ID NO:14),

LPIX-16 (SEQ ID NO:18), LPIX-17 (SEQ ID NO:19), LPIX-19 (SEQ ID NO: 21), LPIX-20 (SEQ ID NO:22), LPIX-23 (SEQ ID NO:25), and LPIX-26 (SEQ ID NO:28);

LPIX-4 (SEQ ID NO:6), LPIX-11 (SEQ ID NO: 13), LPIX-16 (SEQ ID NO:18), and LPIX-20 (SEQ ID NO:22);

LPIX-4 (SEQ ID NO:6), LPIX-11 (SEQ ID NO: 13), LPIX-17 (SEQ ID NO:19), and LPIX-20 (SEQ ID NO:22);

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LPIX-4 (SEQ ID NO:6), LPIX-16 (SEQ ID NO:18), LPIX-17 (SEQ ID NO:19), and LPIX-20 (SEQ ID NO:22);

LPIX-5 (SEQ ID NO:7), LPIX-11 (SEQ ID NO: 13), LPIX-16 (SEQ ID NO:18), and LPIX-20 (SEQ ID NO:22);

5 LPIX-5 (SEQ ID NO:7), LPIX-11 (SEQ ID NO: 13), LPIX-17 (SEQ ID NO:19), and LPIX-20 (SEQ ID NO:22);

LPIX-5 (SEQ ID NO:7), LPIX-16 (SEQ ID NO:18), LPIX-17 (SEQ ID NO:19), and LPIX-20 (SEQ ID NO:22);

10 LPIX-11 (SEQ ID NO: 13), LPIX-16 (SEQ ID NO:18), LPIX-17 (SEQ ID NO:19), and LPIX-20 (SEQ ID NO:22);

LPIX-4 (SEQ ID NO:6), LPIX-11 (SEQ ID NO: 13), and LPIX-20 (SEQ ID NO:22);

LPIX-4 (SEQ ID NO:6), LPIX-16 (SEQ ID NO:18), and LPIX-20 (SEQ ID NO:22);

LPIX-4 (SEQ ID NO:6), LPIX-17 (SEQ ID NO:19), and LPIX-20 (SEQ ID NO:22);

LPIX-5 (SEQ ID NO:7), LPIX-11 (SEQ ID NO: 13), and LPIX-20 (SEQ ID NO:22);

15 LPIX-5 (SEQ ID NO:7), LPIX-16 (SEQ ID NO:18), and LPIX-20 (SEQ ID NO:22);

LPIX-11 (SEQ ID NO: 13), LPIX-16 (SEQ ID NO:18), and LPIX-20 (SEQ ID NO:22);

LPIX-11 (SEQ ID NO: 13), LPIX-17 (SEQ ID NO:19), and LPIX-20 (SEQ ID NO:22);

LPIX-16 (SEQ ID NO:18), LPIX-17 (SEQ ID NO:19), and LPIX-20 (SEQ ID NO:22);

20 23. A composition comprising at least one isolated peptide of claim 13 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

24. A method of detecting sensitivity to *Lol p V* in an individual, *in vitro*, comprising combining a blood sample obtained from the individual with at least one peptide of claim 1, under conditions appropriate for binding of blood components with the peptide, and determining the extent to which such binding occurs as indicative of sensitivity in the individual to ryegrass pollen.

25. A method of claim 24 wherein the extent to which binding occurs is determined by assessing B cell function, T cell function, T cell proliferation or a combination of T cell proliferation and B cell function.

26. A composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent and at least two peptides of claim 1 wherein said composition comprises a sufficient percentage of

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the T cell epitopes of the *Lol p V* protein allergen such that upon administration of the composition to an individual sensitive to *Lol p V*, T cells of the individual become nonresponsive to said *Lol p V* protein allergen.

5 27. A peptide of claim 4 modified to improve solubility.

28. A composition comprising at least one isolated peptide of claim 27.

29. A composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent and at least two peptides, each peptide comprising at least one T cell epitope, wherein at least one peptide comprises an amino acid sequence or portion thereof derived from *Lol p V* which is selected from the group consisting of: LPIX-1 (SEQ ID NO:3), LPIX-1.1 (SEQ ID NO:3), LPIX-2 (SEQ ID NO:4), LPIX-2.1 (SEQ ID NO: 4), LPIX-3 (SEQ ID NO:5), LPIX-4 (SEQ ID NO:6) LPIX-5 (SEQ ID NO:7), LPIX-6 (SEQ ID NO:8), LPIX-7 (SEQ ID NO:9), LPIX-8 (SEQ ID NO:10), LPIX-9 (SEQ ID NO:11), LPIX-10 (SEQ ID NO:12), LPIX-11 (SEQ ID NO:13), LPIX-12 (SEQ ID NO:14), LPIX-13 (SEQ ID NO:15), LPIX-14 (SEQ ID NO:16), LPIX-15 (SEQ ID NO:17), LPIX-16 (SEQ ID NO:18), LPIX-17 (SEQ ID NO:19), LPIX-18 (SEQ ID NO:20), LPIX-19 (SEQ ID NO:21), LPIX-20 (SEQ ID NO:22), LPIX-21 (SEQ ID NO:23), LPIX-22 (SEQ ID NO:24), LPIX-23 (SEQ ID NO:25), LPIX-24 (SEQ ID NO:26), LPIX-26 (SEQ ID NO:28), and LPIX-27 (SEQ ID NO:29) (as shown in Fig. 2), and wherein at least one peptide comprises an amino acid sequence or portion thereof derived from *Lol p I* which is selected from the group consisting of: LPI-1 (SEQ ID NO:30), LPI-1.1 (SEQ ID NO:31), LPI-2 (SEQ ID NO:32), LPI-3 (SEQ ID NO:55), LPI-4 (SEQ ID NO:33), LPI-4.1 (SEQ. ID NO:34), LPI-5 (SEQ ID NO:35), LPI-6 (SEQ ID NO:36), LPI-7 (SEQ ID NO:37), LPI-8 (SEQ ID NO:38), LPI-9 (SEQ ID NO:39), LPI-10 (SEQ ID NO:40), LPI-11 (SEQ ID NO:41), LPI-12 (SEQ ID NO:42), LPI-13 (SEQ ID NO:43), LPI-14 (SEQ ID NO:44), LPI-15 (SEQ ID NO:45), LPI-16 (SEQ ID NO:46), LPI-16.1 (SEQ ID NO:47), LPI-17 (SEQ ID NO:48), LPI-18 (SEQ ID NO:49), LPI-19 (SEQ ID NO:50), LPI-20 (SEQ ID NO:56), LPI-21 (SEQ ID NO:51), LPI-22 (SEQ ID NO:52), and LPI-23 (SEQ ID NO:53) (as shown in Fig. 3).

30. A composition of claim 29 comprising a combination of peptides selected from the group of combinations consisting of:

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5 LPI-16.1 (SEQ ID NO:47), LPI-18 (SEQ ID NO:49), LPI-20 (SEQ ID NO:56), LPI-23 (SEQ ID NO:53), LPI-3 (SEQ ID NO:55), LPI-4.1 (SEQ ID NO:34), LPIX-4 (SEQ ID NO:6), LPIX-5 (SEQ ID NO:7), LPIX-6 (SEQ ID NO:8), LPIX-8 (SEQ ID NO:10), LPIX-9 (SEQ ID NO:11), LPIX-11 (SEQ ID NO:13), LPIX-12 (SEQ ID NO:14), LPIX-16 (SEQ ID NO:18), LPIX-17 (SEQ ID NO:19), LPIX-19 (SEQ ID NO:21), LPIX-20 (SEQ ID NO:22), LPIX-23 (SEQ ID NO:25), LPIX-26 (SEQ ID NO:28);

10 LPI-16.1 (SEQ ID NO:47), LPI-18 (SEQ ID NO:49), LPI-20 (SEQ ID NO:56), LPI-23 (SEQ ID NO:53), LPI-3 (SEQ ID NO:55), LPI-4.1 (SEQ ID NO:34), LPIX-4 (SEQ ID NO:6), LPIX-5 (SEQ ID NO:7), LPIX-6 (SEQ ID NO:8), LPIX-9 (SEQ ID NO:11), LPIX-11 (SEQ ID NO:13), LPIX-12 (SEQ ID NO:14), LPIX-16 (SEQ ID NO:18), LPIX-17 (SEQ ID NO:19), LPIX-19 (SEQ ID NO:21), LPIX-20 (SEQ ID NO:22);

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LPI-16.1 (SEQ ID NO:47), LPI-18 (SEQ ID NO:49), LPI-20 (SEQ ID NO:56), LPI-23 (SEQ ID NO:53), LPI-3 (SEQ ID NO:55), LPI-4.1 (SEQ ID NO:34), LPIX-4 (SEQ ID NO:6), LPIX-5 (SEQ ID NO:7), LPIX-6 (SEQ ID NO:8), LPIX-9 (SEQ ID NO:11), LPIX-12 (SEQ ID NO:14), LPIX-16 (SEQ ID NO:18), LPIX-17 (SEQ ID NO:19), LPIX-19 (SEQ ID NO:21), LPIX-20 (SEQ ID NO:22), LPIX-23 (SEQ ID NO:25);

LPI-16.1 (SEQ ID NO:47), LPI-18 (SEQ ID NO:49), LPI-20 (SEQ ID NO:56), LPI-23 (SEQ ID NO:53), LPI-3 (SEQ ID NO:55), LPI-4.1 (SEQ ID NO:34), LPIX-4 (SEQ ID NO:6), LPIX-5 (SEQ ID NO:7), LPIX-6 (SEQ ID NO:8), LPIX-12 (SEQ ID NO:14), LPIX-16 (SEQ ID NO:18), LPIX-17 (SEQ ID NO:19), LPIX-19 (SEQ ID NO:21), LPIX-20 (SEQ ID NO:22);

LPI-16.1 (SEQ ID NO:47), LPI-18 (SEQ ID NO:49), LPI-20 (SEQ ID NO:56), LPI-23 (SEQ ID NO:53), LPI-3 (SEQ ID NO:55), LPI-4.1 (SEQ ID NO:34), LPIX-4 (SEQ ID NO:6), LPIX-5 (SEQ ID NO:7), LPIX-6 (SEQ ID NO:8), LPIX-16 (SEQ ID NO:18), LPIX-17 (SEQ ID NO:19), LPIX-19 (SEQ ID NO:21), LPIX-20 (SEQ ID NO:22);

LPI-16.1 (SEQ ID NO:47), LPI-18 (SEQ ID NO:49), LPI-20 (SEQ ID NO:56), LPI-23 (SEQ ID NO:53), LPI-3 (SEQ ID NO:55), LPI-4.1 (SEQ ID NO:34), LPIX-4 (SEQ ID NO:6), LPIX-5 (SEQ ID NO:7), LPIX-6 (SEQ ID NO:8), LPIX-16 (SEQ ID NO:18), LPIX-17 (SEQ ID NO:19), LPIX-20 (SEQ ID NO:22);

LPI-16.1 (SEQ ID NO:47), LPI-18 (SEQ ID NO:49), LPI-20 (SEQ ID NO:56), LPI-23 (SEQ ID NO:53), LPI-3 (SEQ ID NO:55), LPI-4.1 (SEQ ID NO:34), LPI-22 (SEQ ID NO:52), LPIX-4 (SEQ ID NO:6), LPIX-5 (SEQ ID NO:7), LPIX-6 (SEQ ID NO:8), LPIX-8 (SEQ ID NO:10), LPIX-9 (SEQ ID NO:11), LPIX-11 (SEQ ID NO:13), LPIX-12 (SEQ ID NO:14), LPIX-16 (SEQ ID NO:18), LPIX-17 (SEQ ID NO:19), LPIX-19 (SEQ ID NO:21), LPIX-20 (SEQ ID NO:22), LPIX-23 (SEQ ID NO:25), LPIX-26 (SEQ ID NO:28);

LPI-16.1 (SEQ ID NO:47), LPI-18 (SEQ ID NO:49), LPI-20 (SEQ ID NO:56), LPI-23 (SEQ ID NO:53), LPI-3 (SEQ ID NO:55), LPI-4.1 (SEQ ID NO:34), LPI-22 (SEQ ID NO:52), LPIX-4 (SEQ ID NO:6), LPIX-5 (SEQ ID NO:7), LPIX-6 (SEQ ID NO:8), LPIX-9 (SEQ ID NO:11), LPIX-11 (SEQ ID NO:13), LPIX-12 (SEQ ID NO:14), LPIX-16 (SEQ ID NO:18), LPIX-17 (SEQ ID NO:19), LPIX-19 (SEQ ID NO:21), LPIX-20 (SEQ ID NO:22);

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NO:21), LPIX-20 (SEQ ID NO:22);

5 LPI-16.1 (SEQ ID NO:47), LPI-18 (SEQ ID NO:49), LPI-20 (SEQ ID NO:56), LPI-23 (SEQ ID NO:53), LPIX-4 (SEQ ID NO:6), LPIX-5 (SEQ ID NO:7), LPIX-6 (SEQ ID NO:8), LPIX-16 (SEQ ID NO:18), LPIX-17 (SEQ ID NO:19), LPIX-19 (SEQ ID NO:21), LPIX-20 (SEQ ID NO:22); and

10 LPI-16.1 (SEQ ID NO:47), LPI-18 (SEQ ID NO:49), LPI-20 (SEQ ID NO:56), LPI-23 (SEQ ID NO:53), LPIX-4 (SEQ ID NO:6), LPIX-5 (SEQ ID NO:7), LPIX-6 (SEQ ID NO:8), LPIX-16 (SEQ ID NO:18), LPIX-17 (SEQ ID NO:19), LPIX-20 (SEQ ID NO:22).

31. A composition comprising at least five, and no more than eight peptides, wherein at least three, and no more than four peptides are derived from *Lol p V* and are selected from the following group of *Lol p V* peptides: LPIX-4 (SEQ ID NO:6), LPIX-5 (SEQ ID NO:7), LPIX-11 (SEQ ID NO: 13), LPIX-16 (SEQ ID NO:18), LPIX-17 (SEQ ID NO:19), and LPIX-20 (SEQ ID NO:22), and wherein at least two, and no more than four peptides are derived from *Lol p I* and selected from the following group of *Lol p I* peptides: LPI-16 (SEQ ID NO:46), LPI-18 (SEQ ID NO:49), LPI-20 (SEQ ID NO:56) and LPI-23 (SEQ ID NO:53).

20 32. A composition of claim 31 wherein two peptides are derived from *Lol p I* and three peptides are derived from *Lol p V*.

33. A composition of claim 31 wherein three peptides are derived from *Lol p I* and three peptides are derived from *Lol p V*

25 34. A composition of claim 31 wherein three peptides are derived from *Lol p I* and four peptides are derived from *Lol p V*.

30 35. A composition of claim 31 wherein four peptides are derived from *Lol p I* and four peptides are derived from *Lol p V*.

36. A composition of claim 31 wherein four peptides are derived from *Lol p I* and three peptides are derived from *Lol p V*.

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37. Use of a composition of claims 21, 22, 23, 26, 28, 29, 30, or 31-36 in the manufacture of a medicament for use in treating sensitivity to *Lol p V* allergen or an immunologically cross-reactive allergen.

5 38. An isolated peptide of *Lol p V*, said peptide comprising at least one T cell epitope of *Lol p V*, said peptide having a positivity index of at least 60 and a mean T cell stimulation index of at least about 2.5 determined in a population of individuals sensitive to *Lol p V*.

10 39. An isolated peptide of claim 38 wherein said population of individuals is at least 15 individuals.

15 40. A portion of an isolated peptide of claim 38 wherein said portion has a positivity index of at least 60 and a mean T cell stimulation index of at least about 2.5 determined in a population of individuals sensitive to *Lol p V*.

41. An isolated peptide of claim 40 wherein said population of individuals is at least 15 individuals.

20 ~~42. A portion of an isolated peptide of *Lol p I*, said peptide or portion thereof comprising at least one T cell epitope of said protein allergen, said peptide having the formula X_n-Y-Z_m , wherein Y is an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: LPIX-1 (SEQ ID NO:3), LPIX-1.1 (SEQ ID NO:3), LPIX-2 (SEQ ID NO:4), LPIX-2.1 (SEQ ID NO: 4), LPIX-3 (SEQ ID NO:5), LPIX-4 (SEQ ID NO:6) LPIX-5 (SEQ ID NO:7), LPIX-6 (SEQ ID NO:8), LPIX-7 (SEQ ID NO:9), LPIX-8 (SEQ ID NO:10), LPIX-9 (SEQ ID NO:11), LPIX-10 (SEQ ID NO:12), LPIX-11 (SEQ ID NO:13), LPIX-12 (SEQ ID NO:14), LPIX-13 (SEQ ID NO:15), LPIX-14 (SEQ ID NO:16), LPIX-15 (SEQ ID NO:17), LPIX-16 (SEQ ID NO:18), LPIX-17 (SEQ ID NO:19), LPIX-18 (SEQ ID NO:20), LPIX-19 (SEQ ID NO:21), LPIX-20 (SEQ ID NO:22), LPIX-21 (SEQ ID NO:23), LPIX-22 (SEQ ID NO:24), LPIX-23 (SEQ ID NO:25), LPIX-24 (SEQ ID NO:26), LPIX-26 (SEQ ID NO:28), and LPIX-27 (SEQ ID NO:29) wherein X_n are amino acid residues contiguous to the amino terminus of Y in the amino acid sequence of said protein allergen, wherein Z_m are amino acid residues contiguous to the carboxy terminus of Y in the amino acid sequence of said protein allergen, wherein n is 0-30 and wherein m is 0-30.~~

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43. A portion of an isolated peptide of claim 42 wherein the portion comprises at least fifteen amino acid residues.

44. An isolated nucleic acid having a nucleotide sequence coding for *Dac g I*, or the functional equivalent of said nucleotide sequence.

45. An isolated nucleic acid sequence of claim 44 wherein said nucleotide sequence comprises the nucleotide sequence of Fig. 16.

46. An expression vector comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for *Dac g I*, or the functional equivalent of said nucleotide sequence.

47. A host cell transformed to express a protein encoded by the nucleic acid of claim 44.

48. Isolated *Dac g I* protein produced in a host cell transformed with the nucleic acid of claim 44.

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